

Supervisor Ralph Buona



Ashburn District

Ashburn District Newsletter - December 2016

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we enjoy the holiday season in Ashburn, I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and looking forward to making new memories with one another. I also hope you take a moment to think of those who may be less fortunate than you and consider donating to one of Loudoun's many fine charities that help those in need. I think Loudoun Hunger (formerly Loudoun Interfaith Relief) does very important work this time of year, please consider a donation:

<http://www.loudounhunger.org/donate-now/>

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph'.

Ralph M. Buona

Vice Chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
and Ashburn District Supervisor

Lansdowne Area Traffic Safety Study

As we all know, Loudoun has been and continues to be a fast-growing community. One of the challenges of growth is our ability to keep up with our transportation network while balancing quality of life for our residents. The Lansdowne

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community is a prime example of one that is being affected by both road construction and continued development.

To address the community's concerns, I worked with the Lansdowne Conservancy to hold a community stakeholders meeting in October to determine how best to address traffic safety concerns.

Prior to that meeting I directed County staff to identify funds to conduct a comprehensive traffic safety audit along Riverside Parkway between Ashburn Village Boulevard and River Creek Parkway. I am pleased to report that the full Board of Supervisors approved the funding of this study at our 1 November Business Meeting and the work has already commenced.

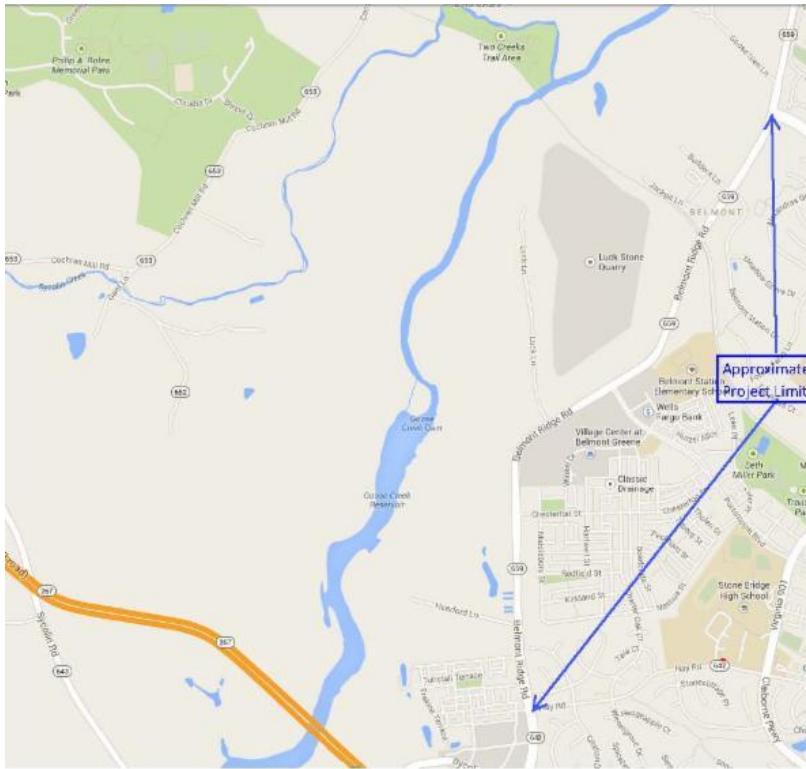
According to the long-standing Countywide Transportation Plan, Riverside Parkway is designated as a major east-west four-lane divided collector roadway running parallel to Route 7. The corridor for the safety audit is approximately 3.6 miles from River Creek Parkway, located at the eastern edge of the Town of Leesburg Limits, to Ashburn Village Boulevard. Riverside Parkway has varying posted speed limits of 35 and 40 miles per hour (mph) and contains steep slopes and sharp turns. Along the Riverside Parkway corridor, there are five (5) signalized intersections, four (4) future signalized intersections, and thirteen (13) unsignalized intersections. Riverside Parkway provides access to the communities of Lansdowne on the Potomac, Lansdowne Village Greens, Potomac Station and Lansdowne Woods, including Seldens Landing Elementary School, Belmont Ridge Middle School, Riverside High School, the National Conference Center (NCC), INOVA Loudoun Hospital, Lansdowne Town Center, Lansdowne Resort, and several other medical, business and commercial facilities.

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Project Limits of Safety Study along Riverside Parkway.

The proposed scope of services for the study is extremely comprehensive and will analyze all traffic and pedestrian activity at all intersections including those signalized, planned for signalization, and un-signalized plus all pedestrian crosswalks, pedestrian and bicyclist movements and transit locations. Crash data and LCPS bus movements are also being considered.

The proposed duration to complete the study is approximately 21 weeks from the issuance of the notice to proceed to the on-call consultant which has already occurred. This timeline allows for a robust data collection effort, evaluation of traffic analysis, and the review of the various improvement options by County and VDOT staff. It is important to note that almost all of the data collection has now been completed. I directed staff to start this activity early while the weather was still nice since pedestrian activity was at higher levels.

My office will be in contact with Lansdowne community leadership as the study is conducted and will work closely with them once the results have been finalized to determine

next steps and how we will implement the study's recommendations.

Update on Route 7 Interchange Construction

I think it was in the eighties that the term "no pain, no gain" was coined. Well, fast forward to 2016 and that is how I describe having two adjacent interchanges under construction at the same time on Route 7!

Route 7/Ashburn Village Boulevard Interchange

This project is mostly funded by a cash proffer from the developers of the One Loudoun Development. One Loudoun is funding \$25M while the County is contributing approximately \$7M to the project.

Shirley Contracting is managing the contract and work has already begun - the project is at over 20% construction completion and you can see the construction of the bridge abutments taking form and recently the laying of the beams over Route 7. This interchange is scheduled to open in summer 2018, slightly before the Belmont Ridge Road Interchange.

Route 7/Belmont Ridge Road Interchange & Widening to Gloucester Parkway

This interchange is significantly more challenging to construct due to its topography and the need to move the alignment to the west to protect the Belmont African American Cemetery. The project also includes widening the portion of Belmont Ridge Road from 2 lanes to 4 from Route 7 to Gloucester Parkway. The total project cost is \$73M, with \$55.7M coming from the State, \$4.5M from General Obligation Bonds, \$5.6M from cash proffers, \$1M from Loudoun Water Reimbursements, and \$6.2M from Federal Highway Funds.

Utility relocation began in 2014 and continues to this day. (Yes, utility relocation can take MUCH longer than one would expect.) Construction is well underway and the estimated completion date is late winter 2018 or early spring 2019.

Belmont Ridge Road Widening Project

Earlier this fall, I attended VDOT's "Pardon our Dust" meeting to kick-off the project which will widen Belmont Ridge Road from two to four lanes from Hay Road to Gloucester Parkway. As of the writing of this newsletter, project construction is underway. Work includes clearing and

grubbing, as well as utility relocation by Dominion Virginia Power.

The project also includes: a dividing median; curbs and gutters; a bridge over the Washington & Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail; shared-use paths on both sides of Belmont Ridge Road; direct connections from the shared-use paths to the W&OD Trail; a parking lot for trail users; and sound walls where Federal Guidelines allowed them. To keep up to date on this project please visit:

http://viriniadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/belmont_ridge_road_widening.asp

This \$61M project is being funded by the county's Northern Virginia Transportation Authority allocations plus county funds. It will tie into the Route 7/Belmont Ridge Road interchange project, which is being administered by the County.

Old Arcola School Residential Project Rejected

I am pleased to let you know the Board recently voted against the proposal to convert the Old Arcola School on Stone Springs Boulevard to "work-force" apartments. The proposal would have built 71 apartments in a total of 3 buildings multi-story buildings -- 2 new ones, and the shell of the existing school building on the 5 acre lot.

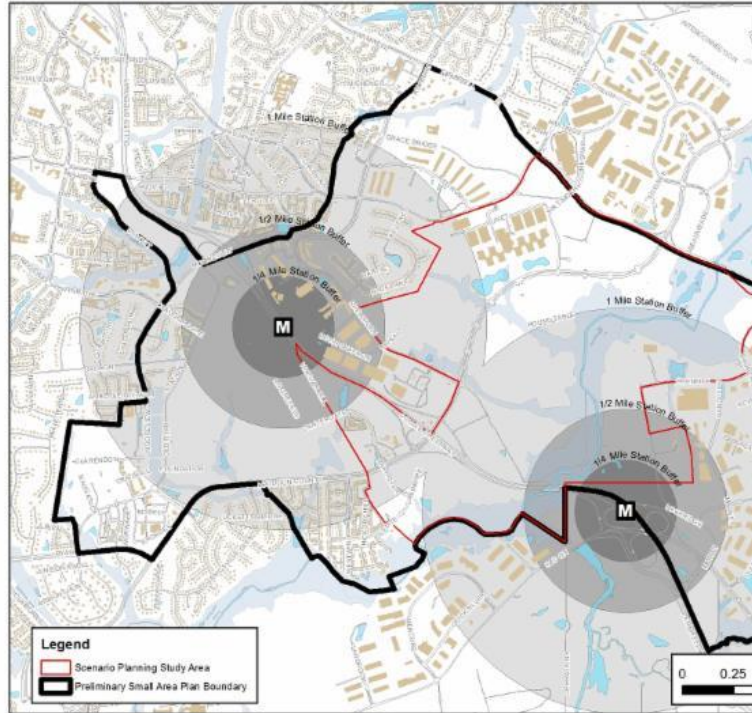
Although not in Ashburn, this project is notable because it would have been the first project approved that would have encroached residential units into the area protected by the county's long-standing (1993) land use plan to protect Dulles Airport from residential encroachment. I opposed this project for several reasons - the first stemming from my being the "mother hen" of Dulles Airport! This residential development would have been located directly on the centerline for Dulles Airport's future fifth runway. It would have put residential units within the highest level of the County's Airport Impact Overlay - where residential is not permitted - for good reason.

Dulles Airport is the number one private employer in Loudoun County and generates not only jobs but very significant revenues to the county to help fund items such as our schools and public safety. Dulles Airport is our economic engine and I will continue my fight to protect it from developers wanting to profit by placing new homes near the airport.

Silver Line Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM)

The purpose of the Silver Line CPAM is to evaluate the existing planned land uses around the future Metrorail stations and to ensure that they strike the desired balance between 1) Prompt realization of tax revenues to support future Metrorail operations, 2) Maximizing future employment generation, 3) Achieving the desired land use pattern, and 4) Minimizing demands on the county's transportation infrastructure.

The Board and county staff have been hard at work for many months on the Silver Line Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM). At the 20 October Business Meeting, staff gave an update on this initiative. The goal of this CPAM is to update the County's land use policies around the Ashburn and Loudoun Gateway Metro stations. There is still quite a bit of work to be done before the amendment takes its final form. The Board's Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) has spent many, many hours working on this. We have scheduled a special Board Business Meeting on 29 November so the full Board (and not just the five members of TLUC) can weigh in on the proposal. It will then be sent to the Planning Commission for review and finally, back to the Board of Supervisors for final approval sometime next year. This may seem like a long timeline, but it is critical that "we get this right" as we have only one shot to plan out the developments that will occur around our future Metro Stations.



Silver Line Area CPAM Study Area.

Envision Loudoun

Loudoun has kicked-off an 18-month initiative called Envision Loudoun, which will result in a New Comprehensive Plan that will guide the growth of Loudoun for the next several decades. The plan will serve as the county government's guiding document for land use and development in the foreseeable future. The Comprehensive Plan is not just about land use but also about transportation, economic development, quality of life, and fiscal management.



November Envision Loudoun Session at the National Conference Center.

There were four Listening and Learning Sessions held throughout the county in November and more are planned. The first was held on Monday, 7 November at the National Conference Center. I enjoyed addressing the attendees - close to 150 - and appreciated the lively interaction that citizens engaged in as they help us shape the vision of Loudoun over the next several decades.

The November meetings were the first of several rounds of community engagement opportunities. Input from the community during these meetings will be used by a 26-member Stakeholders Comprehensive Plan Committee and county staff to form the foundation of Envision Loudoun. Subsequent phases include developing a new vision to guide and effectively manage future growth and development and adopting a New Comprehensive Plan. Envision Loudoun is an

open, inclusive process that connects and engages people to provide meaningful opportunities to influence the future of our county. The Envision Loudoun effort will have a lasting impact on the Loudoun community, helping to promote a continued high quality of life in the county. Envision Loudoun will address growth, land use, transportation, community facilities and amenities, economic development, and fiscal management. Envision Loudoun includes a project-specific website focused on community engagement and public participation. Find out more at www.Envision-Loudoun.org.

General Updates and Community Events

REAL-TIME BUS INFORMATION FOR COMMUTERS

Loudoun County has launched a new real-time bus information system that provides commuter bus riders with accurate arrival times of their buses. "Bus Time" is a web-based tool that can be viewed using a web browser on a mobile device, laptop or PC. This program helps riders plan their commute by allowing them to see the next several buses scheduled to arrive at their selected stop. Using GPS technology and schedule/arrival data, the Bus Time program calculates the arrival time of buses for specific stops and routes. Commuters can access the information via smartphones, other mobile devices, laptops or PCs. More information about Bus Time, including the link to the tool, is available online at www.loudoun.gov/BusTime or by contacting Loudoun County Transit at 703-771-5665 or by email at rideshare@loudoun.gov.

LOUDOUN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

On Saturday, 3 December 2016, the Loudoun Symphony will present its annual holiday program. The start time will be a family and senior-friendly 4:00 p.m. The location will be at the Community Church, 19790 Ashburn Road, Ashburn VA 20147 (facing Route 7). Join your LSO for this program of popular music of the holiday season with a wrap up audience participation Christmas music singalong. Mark your calendar now and order your tickets online at www.loudounsymphony.org. Tickets are also available at the door. Children 12 and under admitted free.

ASHBURN VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Fresh Fraser Fir trees, wreaths, ornaments, fire pits, and hot apple cider are all available. Hours are from 3pm - 10pm

daily from 25 November to 23 December 2016. Our local volunteers will even help transport your tree if needed!

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